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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: GERSHONI=5

In re Application of:)	Art Unit: 1655
)	
Jonathan GERSHONI et al)	Examiner: B. Forman
)	
Appln. No.: 09/297,668)	Washington, D.C.
)	
Filed: May 6, 1999)	December 3, 2001
)	
For: DETERMINATION AND CONTROL)	
OF BIMOLECULAR)	
INTERACTIONS)	

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
DEC 05 2001
TC 1700

Sir:

The present communication is responsive to the official action of November 1, 2001. Claims 144-176 presently appear in this case. All of the claims have been subject to a restriction requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination and allowance of allowance of all the claims now present in the case are respectfully urged.

The examiner has required restriction among the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I, including claims 144-156 and 159-170, drawn to methods for identifying and producing peptides;

Group II, including claim 157, drawn to a method of vaccinating;

Group III, including claim 158, drawn to a library of peptides;

Group IV, including claims 171-175, drawn to methods for identifying and producing oligonucleotides; and

Group V, including claim 176, drawn to a library of oligonucleotides, presently.

The examiner states that the inventions are distinct for specified reasons. This restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully pointed out that the present application is a national phase of a PCT and, therefore, restriction must be made under 35 U.S.C. §372 and the PCT rules and requirements. The examiner's reasons for maintaining the restriction requirement are based on the U.S. rules, not the PCT rules. It is believed that Groups I and IV share a single general inventive concept. Furthermore, the library claims also share the same single inventive concept as a process and product made should be examined together under PCT practice. Similarly, as all of the rejections over the prior art have been overcome for the reasons set forth in applicants' amendment of September 12, 2001, the method of use claim 157 should also be examined with the product and method of making claims.

Nevertheless, in order to be responsive, applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I. Reconsideration and

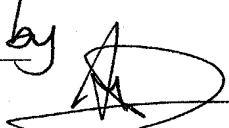
In re of Appln. No. 09/297,668

withdrawal of the restriction requirement, at least in part,
and examination of all the claims now present in the case is
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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